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BOOK NOTES

Among recent publications of the American Book Company are the following texts for school and college: *Ancient Peoples*, by William C. Morey, a revision of the author's *Outline of Ancient History*. In this revision more attention has been paid to the life and customs of the people, in the belief that "the real history of people deals with its progressive development, and not simply with its antiquities." The book gives the pronunciation of all proper names, and contains many excellent illustrations and maps. At the close of each chapter is given a list of selections for reading and study. *The Writing of Narrative Latin*, by Benjamin W. Mitchell, presents the subject "from the standpoint of English idiom, using material derived mainly from the first book of Cæsar's *Gallic War*. The book contains a working vocabulary with English equivalents for about 600 Latin words, and a very helpful table of synonyms. *Aristophanes' Clouds*, edited with introduction and notes by Lewis Leaming Forman, is the latest issue of the Greek Series for Colleges and Schools, under the general editorship of Professor Herbert Weir Smyth, of Harvard. The Introduction (pp. 13-77), divided into two parts, a study of the life and times of the dramatist and a consideration of rhythm and metre, includes the following topics: Life of Aristophanes, Aristophanes the Poet, Contemporary Athens, Aristophanes the Man, Politics, Religion, The New Learning, Freedom of the Comic Spirit, Conclusions. In addition to the notes on the text at the bottom of each page, there are supplementary notes on the introduction and on the text (pp. 224-342), designed for the maturer student who is studying the Greek language, Greek comedy as a whole, Greek philosophy, and Greek history. It is a very complete and scholarly edition, and in the hands of a live teacher it should make Greek comedy as real and interesting as Shakespeare. *Vom grossen König und Anderen, Deutsche Anekdoten aus zweihundert Jahren*, selected and edited with notes, questions, and vocabulary, by Frederick Betz, is "intended to place before our American boys and girls some interesting stories about famous Germans." The anecdotes

are brief, clear, and interesting, and the language is simple, well within the reach of the beginner. Unusual words are explained in German at the close of each anecdote, and at the end of the book there are questions in German on each lesson, as well as a complete vocabulary. A number of portraits by Karl Bauer have been reproduced for the text. *Chemistry in the Home*, by Henry T. Weed, is a text-book for students who elect chemistry early in their high-school course. It aims to train students in scientific thinking and to give them a fund of information concerning the chemistry of everyday things, related to industries and the home."

The Case of the American Drama, by Thomas H. Dickinson (Houghton Mifflin Company), was received too late for inclusion in Professor Henderson's article on the *American Drama*. In this book, which forms an excellent companion volume to his *Chief Contemporary Dramatists*, Professor Dickinson gives an interesting and helpful study "of the forces that may, in the fullness of time, bring forth an American theatre of a form that will be appropriate to the event," and declares that we must "go back to the inalienable principles of dramatic art as these have been worked out in the past in order that we may go forward to the service of a new drama of a new America."

Carlyle: How to Know Him, by Bliss Perry (Bobbs-Merrill Company), is a modest attempt to "exhibit, as far as possible in Carlyle's own words, the working of his mind." Through skillfully selected extracts from his writings and keen critical comment, Professor Perry traces Carlyle's development as man and as writer in the hope that his book may serve to "invite a new generation of hurried and preoccupied Americans to look back steadily and wisely upon a great figure in the light of Carlyle's own varied and stimulating and magnificent utterances." It is not intended as a substitute for a first-hand knowledge of Carlyle; "yet it may help some readers to try to climb the mountain for themselves." For such a climb it would be hard to find a more sympathetic, intelligent, and inspiring guide than Professor Perry.